

CHESHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 27, No. 2

Fall 2004

PROGRAM

Monday, September 27, 7:30 p.m.
"Cheshire's Early Postal Service"

Robert Cawood

Stamp expert Robert Cawood, a longtime member of the Cheshire Philatelic Society, will give us a brief history of Cheshire's early postal service, including the Brooksvale Post Office, and show samples of the Philatelic Society's excellent collection of Cheshire postal cancellations. New items from the Estate of Raymond Metzler, including a large wool spinning wheel, a flax wheel, and a 3-part sadiron, also will be on display at the house.

Monday, October 25, 7:30 p.m.
"Historic Preservation Update"

J. Paul Loether

J. Paul Loether is acting director of the State Historic Preservation Office and deputy director of the Historic Preservation and Museum Division of the newly formed Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism (CCCT). An excellent speaker, he advised the Cheshire Historic District Study Committee on the process to establish the Cornwall Avenue/Town Center and South Brooksvale Road historic districts. He will update us on the mission of the new CCCT and historic preservation activities in Connecticut.

Monday, November 22, 7:30 p.m.

"Eri Woodbury and the Congressional Medal of Honor"

While moving files this summer, we were thrilled to discover Eri Woodbury's Civil War Congressional Medal of Honor. The medal has been "missing" since our 1972 move to the Hitchcock-Phillips House. Plans are to put it on display, starting on Veterans' Day, and to devote the November program to both Woodbury's life and a history of the Congressional Medal of Honor. Speakers to be announced.

Fall Calendar

Sept. 25	Saturday 9 AM-3 PM	Antiques&Collectibles Sale *
Sept. 27	Monday 7:30 p.m.	Membership Meeting
Oct. 18	Monday 7:30 p.m.	Board Meeting
Oct. 25	Monday 7:30 p.m.	Membership Meeting
Oct. 30	Saturday 9 AM-3 PM	Antiques&Collectibles Sale *
Nov. 15	Monday 7:30 p.m.	Board Meeting
Nov. 22	Monday 7:30 p.m.	Membership Meeting
Dec. 19	Sunday 2 PM-4 PM	Christmas Party

* Weather permitting

The Hitchcock-Phillips House is now open to the public every Sunday afternoon, 2 — 4 PM, until the end of May, except for Sunday, Dec. 26, and Easter Sunday.

To visit at another time, call 272-8771 or 271-2378 to arrange an appointment.

In Memoriam

Clayton H. Crabtree March 27, 2004

Lois Jean Meek July 26, 2004

William J. Regan August 11, 2004

Carolyn T. Oedel August 25, 2004

We are saddened by the loss of these members and extend our deep sympathy to their families.

EDGAR JOHNSON IS NAMED "CURATOR *EMERITUS*" MARSHALL ROBINSON APPOINTED AS NEW CURATOR

With deep regret, the Board of Directors accepted the resignation of Curator Edgar Johnson at its May board meeting. The good news is that Edgar has agreed to accept the position of curator *emeritus* and will continue to host visitors to the house on many Sunday afternoons.

A longtime Society member, Edgar was first named an assistant curator in 1987 under the late Lillian Andrews. From 1994—1998, he was co-curator with Lillian and Warren Van Almkerk. After Lillian resigned in 1998, he was appointed 1st curator, with Warren continuing to serve as co-curator or 2nd curator.

Edgar's tenure as curator has been outstanding. He is particularly noted for his extensive knowledge of Cheshire history and his work to improve our reference book collection. He also has been a major society benefactor. Among his many gifts are the dining room oriental rug, the meeting room carpet, the hall runners, a new refrigerator used during Antiques & Collectible sales and, with the late Clayton Crabtree, the Society's sign in the front yard. He also has added substantially to our collection with gifts of many items from his family home. As President Ed Kania stated in his report to the annual meeting, "There are no words to express our appreciation to Edgar Johnson...Most people feel that he is IS the Cheshire Historical Society."

Well-Qualified Successor

The Society is fortunate to have Board Member Marshall Robinson to succeed Edgar. Marshall is an avid gun collector as well as an expert on old tools and old bottles. A retired Connecticut State trooper and well-known forensic firearms examiner, he is a past president of both the State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and the General David Humphrey (New Haven) Branch of the SAR, and a member of the Connecticut Society of Mayflower Descendants.

Marshall will be assisted by longtime 2nd Curator Warren VanAlmkerk. We also welcome

Kathleen Connolly as a new assistant curator. Kathleen has owned Village Antique Shop in Plantsville for 17 years and is a member of both the International Society of Appraisers and the Daguerrian Society.

Meet the New Board Members

Four new members were elected to the Cheshire Historical Society Board at the annual meeting in April. It is with great pleasure that we welcome:

Andrew Knott—Vice President and Program Chair A Society member since he was a student at Cheshire High School, Andy is a graduate of Magdalen College and holds a 2003 law degree from Quinnipiac University Law School. He is in local practice with his father, Attorney John Knott.

Cara Luciani—Corresponding Secretary Cara began working at the Cheshire Public Library while still attending Cheshire High School. She now holds a Library Science degree from Southern Connecticut State University and is a full-time Cheshire librarian. She and her husband Chris have a one-year-old son, Connor.

Sally Bowman—Director Also a Cheshire native, Sally is an agent with Calcagni Associates Real Estate and the mother of a 11-year-old son, Kevin. She was graduated from Holy Cross High School and Adelphi University. Long active in civic affairs, Sally was a co-founder of the Cheshire Relay-for-Life and was chair of the 1995 Cheshire Historic District Study Committee.

Eleanor Herrmann—Director Eleanor lives in a 1750 salt-box home on Wallingford Road. A nurse historian and published author, she was graduated from Adelphi University and holds an EED degree from Columbia University. Before retirement, she was a professor at the University of Connecticut School of Nursing. She is presently curator of nursing artifacts there.



New Garden Delights Visitors

The Cheshire Garden Club's restoration of the Lucille Williams Memorial Garden between the house and the shed is paying rich dividends. Summer visitors who came up the new brick walk were welcomed by bright yellow yarrow, marigolds, and the rich fragrance of pink and lavender phlox. The new window box was bright with red geraniums. The central herb bed, anchored by a pot of nasturtiums, has thriving sweet and red basil, rosemary, lemon balm, parsley, chamomile, marjoram,

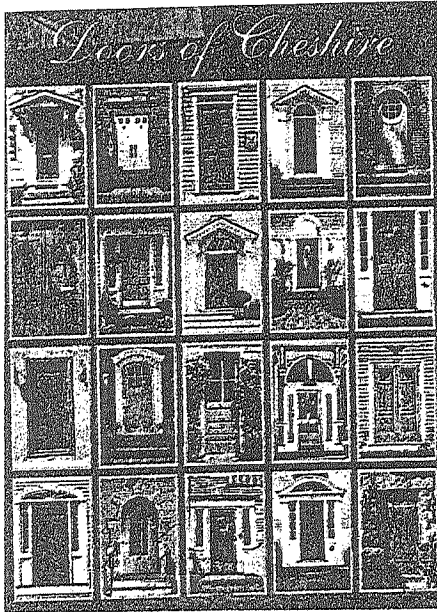
sage, thyme, lavender, and scented geranium. Best of all for many visitors is that all plants in the garden are identified by printed signs which give both the botanical and common names.

Right now, the new holly bush in the corner is heavy with berries, and fall-blooming turtlehead, monkshood, and globe flowers are beginning to open. As an added bonus, club members also have restored the shrubbery bed on the side of the shed. This area features a blue hydrangea, boxwood, rhododendron, and a beautiful tree-peony to replace the historic plant which was lost before the 1976 restoration. (The original Society tree-peony was a descendant of one brought back from China by William Law, circa 1810.) Five newly-planted chrysanthemums are coming into bloom.

The Society is deeply indebted to the Cheshire Garden Club, particularly to the hard work of the Parks Committee under Chair Inge Venus, who is also a Society member. The committee soon will be planting more bulbs for next spring. Members are: Vicky Brady, Marvin Carley, Leni Cruess, Sharon Perry, Jeff Rapoport, and Irene Smith.

FINANCIAL REPORT APRIL 1, 2003 – MARCH 31, 2004

If you require
specific information
about our financial statement
please contact our Treasurer,
Ed Kania, available at e-mail:
edwinkania@cox.net



“Doors of Cheshire” Poster for Sale at Society

Cheshire resident Hope Reinhard has donated a generous supply of her beautiful “Doors of Cheshire” poster to the Society to sell for our benefit. We are now offering the poster, originally priced for \$25, for \$10—all proceeds to benefit the Society.

Hope originally created the poster in 2002, using her own color photographs of historic Cheshire doorways. The poster includes our Cheshire Historical Society doorway as well as historic doors from Main Street, South Main Street, Cornwall Avenue, Preston Terrace, Spring Street, Ridgeview Terrace, Maple Avenue, George Street, Park Place, Wallingford Road, Allen Avenue, Sperry Road, and the Percival estate off Jarvis Street. Many people have had fun trying to identify the doorways. For those who shrink from the challenge, the Society will supply an identification list on request.

New Books

SPECIAL THANKS to:

- **Art Childs**, who chauffeured Historical Society members in the Memorial Day Parade in his 1964 Ford Galaxy convertible.
- **Stephen Kornhauser**, chief conservator at the Wadsworth Atheneum, who visited the house in May to repair some small cracks on the back of our Kensett painting—and to **Dorothy Drufva**, society member, who arranged for the visit.
- **Peg Boutwell**, **Stephanie Casner**, **Barbara Christoff**, **Priscilla Clark**, **Rosemary Cole**, **Betty Martha**, **Ann Massimino**, **Gerry Mitlehner**, **Marcia Robbie**, and **Ruthann Turley**, who acted as guides for the 3rd grade visits this spring, and **Mary Ellen Kania**, coordinator. A total of 353 people, including 309 students, 16 teachers and 28 parents from Chapman, Doolittle, Humiston and Norton elementary schools toured the house.
- **Norm LeClerc**, **Cheshire Furniture Refinishing**, 43 Willow St., who repaired a broken Hitchcock chair from our dining room set and volunteer **Connie Hitt**, who expertly re-caned the chair seat.
- **Joseph Michelangelo**, director of Public Works, and **Simon Roby** and **Keith Baron**, Public Works employees, who did such a great job laying the new brick walk in the Lucille Williams Memorial Garden.

We have added the following new gift books to our reference collection:

A Church Set Upon A Hill: The Story of The Prospect Congregational Church, UCC 1798-1988, the Rev. Boardman Kathan, gift from the author.

The Story of the Farmington Canal, Amy Trout, and Furniture of the New Haven Colony Seventeenth-Century Style, Patricia E. Kane, gifts from Dorothy Drufva in memory of Clayton Crabtree.

Stone by Stone: The Magnificent History in New England’s Stone Walls, Robert M. Thorson, gift from Mary B. Hobler-Hyson.

Memorial Donations

In memory of Clayton Crabtree from:

Doris Black
White-Bowman, Inc.
Edgar Johnson
R. W. Hine Ace Hardware

In memory of Lois Jean Meek from:

Doris Black

Also in memory of Clayton Crabtree, Lois Jean Meek and D. Oland Anderson from Ken Killer, Brenda Anderson-Killer, and Eric A. Anderson.

MEMBERSHIP LIST — 2004

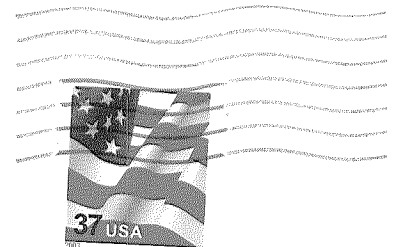
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CHESHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS



FALL 2004

Cheshire Historical Society
PO Box 281
Cheshire, CT 06410



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Andrew Knott

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Marshall Robinson

Warren VanAlmkerk

Kathleen Connolly, *asst.*

Webmaster

Eric Anderson

Newsletter Editor

Mary Ellen Kania

Cheshire, CT 06410

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, SEPT. 27

06410+1273

